[redacted] December 1, 2017

Interviewer: [redacted]
Note Taker: Kessina Lee
Cooke Aquaculture Lawyer: Diane Myers

[redacted]

July 2017 Incident

- July 20 (Thursday?), after work day, crew returned to shore, one crew on site—[redacted] Called from Site 1, noticed significant movement (Site 2), looked like an anchor(s) had broke.
- [redacted] called [redacted] and vessel operator [redacted], went to Lovric's, then to farm. Within an hour, arrived on site.
- [redacted] and [redacted] arrived shortly.
- Movement—anchors had failed—numerous, both mooring points and dragged.
- North side anchors lost, farm had drifted, came to rest on S/SE anchors.
- Not moving at that point.
- Contacted tug agencies, contract vessels, to come ASAP.
- Goal was to secure site, re-anchor, then assess.
- As assessing what happened, began removing equipment—generators, fuel tank, feed, compressors.
- Attempted to begin to reset anchors, meaning retrieve existing anchors, and setting new anchors from pier facility.
- Through several days, held site with Millennium Star, using bridle. Held facility in place during flood tide.
- (Note: Mr. [redacted] indicated on diagram of site that the north and west anchors failed.-kl)
- Attempting to reset north anchors during ebb.
- Crew was on site for approximately three days straight.
- Got mooring points and pad eyes set. By fourth or fifth day, anchors set in place, no longer needed tug. Site deemed secure.
- Began reinforcing with additional pad eyes, chains, shackles.
- Put additional pad eyes alongside pad eyes.
- Chain across outriggers—to reduce stress on system, help take load off anchors.
- More pad eyes and chains.
- Site secure, Mr. [redacted] was instructed to resume normal operations. Brought equipment back, resumed feeding.
- No aeration during the incident—no compressor.
- On first and second day, crew inspected for escapes or breaches in net—no signs of escapement seen—no fish outside or predators.
- Third day, deemed it safe to put divers in, inspect stock nets. Result—no breaches, holes, or escapements.
- Facility maintained its shape during July incident.
- Very little mortality during event. Removed morts, rechecked pens the following day.
- No further anchor work done, everything in place.
- Completed net washing by fifth day. On 21st, brought all available net washing equipment to site to wash nets. Anything to reduce drag.
- Chains attached to shackle at pad eye. Ideally, distributing load, reducing strain on system.

- Resumed normal operations on site 3 (passive grading).
- No concerns between July incident and up to August incident during daily inspections.

<u>August 2017 Incident</u>

- Small crew on weekends, one overnight.
- Saturday afternoon, Mr. [redacted] had spoken with crew that came back to shore, all was normal.
- Mr. [redacted] received a call from [redacted] Mr. [redacted] sounded very anxious. Site 2 had moved, "it's really bad."
- Mr. [redacted] considered this an emergency, contacted [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] miscellaneous staff including [redacted].
- [redacted] was with Mr. [redacted] when the call was received from Mr. [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] took a boat from Lovric's to the farm.
- Arrived on site, observed extensive damage, Site 2 moving toward Site 1. Very dynamic.
- Mr. [redacted] didn't deem it safe to put staff on site.
- Flood tide—north side and shore side anchors failed (either broken or drug), moving south/southeast toward Site 1.
- Walkways on east end buckling.
- Main bridge (spine) disconnected from east walkway. Pens disconnected, failing (east end—215 and 225).
- Shortly after Mr. [redacted] arrived, tide relaxed, system settled into place over south anchors. Staff began removing equipment to Site 1. Contacted tugs and other vessels to come assist.
- [redacted] arrived that evening. Mr. [redacted] was in charge from that point, as well as Canadian counterparts there helping to advise.
- Over next couple days, things got worse.
- Tides were very strong, but also an issue was lack of a slack tide to get any work done. Had minutes before ebb took over after flood to get on site and get anything done.
- South anchors held, but difficulty was getting anything to hold on north end.
- Attempted to reset anchors at every slack, but would fail.
- It took several days to get a system in place that would hold and not compromise Site 1.
- Continued to deteriorate up the system. Walkways would buckle at hinges. Two compromised cages, then four, then six—over several days/tides.
- They were able to pump some live fish, but had to pull staff off and pull boat away when tide began to run.
- After that, walkways were flipping, it was catastrophic, at that point it was a salvage operation.
- Continued using seine nets over breached stock nets trying to contain fish.
- Once the site was very hazardous, focus was securing site to protect Site 1.
- Global arrived on site and Culbertson, began disassembling site. Began removing dead fish. Pumped into Harvestor.
- Before Global began pulling site materials, attempted to remove any and all dead fish possible. Then salvage began.
- At that point, Mr. [redacted] and staff stepped away. [redacted] and [redacted] oversaw salvage.
- Mr. [redacted] less involved, as fish retrieval was done and it was salvage effort.

- July—chain:
    - Mr. [redacted] directed by [redacted].

- Staff member assigned to be feeder or raft supervisor—first task is "walk around."
- Field data sheet—log environmental readings, feed, box to remind to do mooring check.
- Arrive on site, visual perimeter inspection of pad eyes and moorings is conducted.
- Prior to July event, no indication that anything was at risk.

- Net cleaning policy: never stops during high growth months. Several washing units, start at Site 1, Site 2, Site 3, Site 1, etc.
- Rapid bull kelp growth during summer.
- There was always a staff member (when units were operable) washing nets.

- Site 2 was second in line to harvest, based on smolt stocking.
- Site 3 is stocked first with largest hatchery smolt, then Site 2, then Site 1, so Site 3 is first to harvest size. Site 3 harvest had just started. Site 2 was still a ways out.
- Harvest schedule changes daily based on demand, market.
- Passive grading at Site 3, Site 2, Site 1, then clean-out at Site 3, Site 2, Site 1.
- Site 3 stocked in late February 2016. Began harvest in July, so approximately 16-17 months to first harvest. Generally 16-24 months from stocking to fallow.

Question: Does Cypress Island have a chart like the one seen at Hope Island that gives scores for fouling on nets:

- Chart in Site 1 bunkhouse for multiple operations. Doesn't reflect percentages for net scores (like at Hope Island).

- [redacted] reinforced walkways. When site drug, bends on north walkway, [redacted] did welding to attempt to reinforce.
- 1" open link chain to anchor chain (not pad eye). Tensioned chains, intention to reduce stress on structure between pad eyes. (Note: See diagram where Mr. [redacted] indicated where chains were added.-kl)

Question: How were initial estimates of 4000-5000 escaped fish arrived at:

- Fish escape estimate: Saw fish outside system. No way to know how many—any estimates would have been made by [redacted].

Question: Were net cleaning units operable prior to July incident:

- Prior to July, issues with units resulting in just one for three farms. Two were down for approximately one month or so.
- One shipped for repair in Seattle.
- Waiting for parts for other.
- Fouling on a scale of 1-10, 2-3 is ideal, probably ~8 after July.
- Mussel build-up on floor.

- Underwater inspection—approximately once per year or once every two years, to 100' dive limit.

- If there's a concern, case by case basis.
- Approximately a dozen anchors on Sites 1, 2, and 3 deeper than 100.'
- On Site 2 a few north anchors too deep.

- Target harvest weight: 5 kilos
- Holding for longer = risk of maturation = downgrade at processing plant, also increases density, which is undesirable.
- Mr. [redacted] is not aware of any discussion around changing harvest schedule following July incident.